

August 26, 1976

Mrs. Sylvia Averbach
151 Woodpecker Road
Jenkintown, Pa. 19046

Dear Sylvia,

I just tried to call you to reassure you that I had sent a letter to Dr. Feeney at Montgomery County Community College. I was kind of hung up on this, life here having been rather confusing on account of Viking and other things. However, I also called his office and they assured me that the position was still open and that they were indeed happy to get my recommendation.

Also, going over my old files, I realized that I still had some of the correspondence that we exchanged during that last incarnation. In fact, I had not realized what good correspondents both of us must have been at that time. We continued to write for quite a while after you married Lou and then I guess life got rather busier for both of us.

Well, it's just in that connection that I also wanted to ask you whether there was even some feeble hope that you had the counterpart of any of that material. I have your letters to me, but I do not have copies of what I had written, and it is a little tantalizing, to guess from your responses, how much I may have been putting down about the way I was just getting under way in my research career. As I am starting to write a biographical memoir, any documentation of that kind would in fact be most helpful since one can hardly put very much reliance on one's unaided memory over that period of time. I realize this is a long shot, and that nostalgia is not necessarily the most constructive move to try to inculcate for either of us. On the other hand, I have been finding that these fragments of history are a kind of bind to one's own real existence: a lesson I think you were more able to teach me in those days than I knew how to receive. Anyhow, if you have been keeping things in trunks in your attic and it is not too much trouble to check, I wonder what you might be able to find along these lines.

Good luck on your position. I hope that it and everything else in your life right now really does work out for the best.

Yours as ever,

Joshua Lederberg